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7 April 1972

The Honorable John Stennis, Chairman
Senate Armed Services Committee
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Chairman:

I enclose herewith, for the Committee record, my
answers to questions submitted by Senators Thurmond and
Hughes at the hearings yesterday on my nomination as Deputy
Director of Central Intelligence.

Respectfully,

/s/

Vernon A. Walters
Major General, USA

Enclosures

VAW:blp

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Answers to Questions from Senator Thurmond

1. Question

General Walters, I think that many of us are concerned to see that our foreign intelligence-gathering program relies on a proper balance of factors, such as military data, economic data, political data, and so forth. Your career so far has been in Defense Intelligence. What differences in approach and function do you see between DIA and CIA?

Answer

The basic difference between DIA and CIA is that DIA is concerned with departmental intelligence -- that intelligence, both strategic and tactical, which is required by the military establishment. Its mission is to serve the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. DIA is concerned primarily with military and military-related matters.

The CIA, as I understand it, is concerned with national intelligence -- that intelligence required by the President and the National Security Council in the formulation of national policy. The CIA reviews the intelligence activities of the other Government departments and agencies and advises the National Security Council regarding these activities as they relate to the national security.

2. Question

What do you understand to be the new responsibilities in the post of Deputy Director as a result of the intelligence reorganization of last November?

Answer

As I understand my position, the Deputy Director of CIA is not in the chain of command. The only authority he has is that delegated to him by the Director.

3. Question

How do you evaluate the role of intelligence-gathering in the complex effort of today's international decision-making?

Answer

It is certainly my feeling that in this day of serious international tensions in many areas, and actual armed conflict in some, and of the steadily

growing destructive capacity of modern weapon systems, the importance of accurate and timely intelligence has never been greater. I believe this intelligence is quite as important in the interest of preserving peace and of contributing to correct policy decisions as it is in assuring adequate national defense for war.

4. Question

Do you have any suggestions as to how our overall intelligence-gathering effort can be improved?

Answer

I think it would be presumptuous of me to offer an opinion on this very important subject at this stage. If confirmed, I will certainly devote close attention to this problem and perhaps in time be able to offer some constructive comments.

Answer to Questions from Senator Hughes

With regard to the questions posed by Senator Hughes, I would like to make the following statement:

I have but recently returned from extended overseas duties, and at this stage I am simply not familiar with the magnitude and complexities of the problems evoked in Senator Hughes' questions. I am not yet settled in at CIA, and it would be presumptuous of me at this stage to attempt to answer these questions at a time when I really have no competence to do so. I would hope that in the future, when I am more thoroughly read in on these problems, I will be in a better position to express views on these very important matters.

TOP OPEN SESSION RECORD

STATEMENT OF SENATOR STROM THURMOND (R-SC) AT SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON NOMINATION OF GENERAL VERNON A. WALTERS AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CIA.

General Walters, we are pleased to have you here today. You have a fine record and outstanding talents. I believe that your nomination to this post is appropriate recognition for the services which you have rendered to your country in the past, and it is my judgment that you are well qualified to render even greater service in your new capacity.

Mr. Chairman, the New York Times, on December 30, 1971, ran a fine article about General Walters, entitled "General May Get No. 2 Post in C.I.A.," and I ask unanimous consent that it be made a part of the Committee record.

Now I have a few questions.

~~1. General Walters, we have the record of your regular career in military intelligence before us, but I understand that, at times, your talents have caused several of our U.S. Presidents to call upon you for special assignments. Can you tell us about some of this special work?~~

~~2. General Walters, your career has given you a working relationship with various types of world leaders. How will this experience be of value to you in your new post?~~

3. General Walters, I think that many of us are concerned to see that our foreign intelligence-gathering program relies on a proper balance of factors, such as military data, economic data, political data, and so forth. Your career so far has been in Defense Intelligence. What differences in approach and function do you see between DIA and CIA?

4. What do you understand to be the new responsibilities in the post of Deputy Director as a result of the intelligence reorganization of last November?

5. How do you evaluate the role of intelligence-gathering in the complex effort of today's international decision-making?

6. Do you have any suggestions as to how our over-all intelligence-gathering effort can be improved?

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